

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 07196 01 OF 02 241552Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010803 241557Z /47

P R 241323Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9780
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 7196

EXDIS

CAIRO FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING OF KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER
ON BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND ON CAIRO CONFERENCE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 07196 01 OF 02 241552Z

REF: STATE 303444

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING MY DEC. 24 BRIEFING ON THE
BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, THE
KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THAT GOK, WHILE IT
SHARED SAME STRATEGIC AIM, DID NOT APPROVE OF SADAT'S
APPROACH TO PEACE PROCESS RESULTING IN CURRENT CAIRO

CONFERENCE WHICH EXACERBATED RATHER THAN PROMOTED ARAB SOLIDARITY. GOK FAVORED ADOPTION OF WALDHEIM PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD PLACE MIDDLE EAST PEACE DISCUSSIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL ARAB PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED TO ATTEND, AND RELIEVE US FROM HAVING OTHERS QUESTION ITS MOTIVATION IN THIS MATTER. STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOK HAD REGISTERED WITH SYRIAN PRES. ASAD ITS DISAPPROVAL OF THE LIBYAN CONFERENCE AND CONTINUED TO COUNSEL THE PLO TO ADOPT A MORE MODERATE AND FORTHCOMING STANCE. HE CONCLUDED WITH PLEA THAT US NOT LET SADAT BE UNDERMINED AND AFFIRMED CONTINUING KUWAITI SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON MY RETURN TO KUWAIT, I ARRANGED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD TO BRIEF HIM ON RESULTS OF BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND CAIRO CONFERENCE ALONG LINES OF REFTEL. FOREIGN MINISTER, TOGETHER WITH UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID AND HIS OFFICE DIRECTOR, LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY BRIEFING FOLLOWING WHICH SABAH AL-AHMAD DESCRIBED CURRENT KUWAITI POLICY IN THIS SITUATION.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER BEGAN BY STATING THAT GOK POSITION IS THAT ANY PROPOSED SOLUTION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE "ESSENTIAL RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS AND MUST BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 07196 01 OF 02 241552Z

WORKED OUT IN A CONFERENCE WITH THE PLO IN ATTENDANCE AS OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. HE DID NOT MEAN BY THIS STATEMENT THAT KUWAIT DID NOT SUPPORT OBJECTIVE OF COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. RATHER GOK BELIEVES THAT CAIRO CONFERENCE IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB WISHES BECAUSE SYRIA, PLO AND JORDAN ARE NOT IN ATTENDANCE. MOREOVER, CAIRO MEETING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT IS NOT BASED ON UN RESOLUTIONS NOR OPERATES WITHIN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER ASSURED ME THAT GOK WAS NOT PROMPTED BY EMOTIONAL REACTION TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR EGYPT. IT DESIRED ARAB SOLIDARITY AND CONSIDERED THAT CAIRO MEETING CREATED DIVISIONS AMONG ARABS WITHOUT SERVING PEACE. HOWEVER, BEFORE ADOPTING ANY DEFINITIVE POSITION, GOK WAS AWAITING RESULTS OF BEGIN VISIT TO EGYPT ON DEC. 25, WHICH WAS BOUND TO BE IMPORTANT. FOREIGN MINISTER QUALIFIED THIS COMMENT BY NOTING THAT INFORMATION GOK HAD ABOUT ISRAELI PROPOSALS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT REALISTIC AND WOULD LEAVE PALESTINIANS UNDER ISRAELI DOMINATION.

5. AS SOLUTION TO ARAB DISUNITY AND IN EFFORT TO MOVE
PEACE PROCESS IN RIGHT DIRECTION, FOREIGN MINISTER
SUGGESTED THAT UNSYG'S WASLDHEIM'S PROPOSAL FOR A
PREPARATORY MEETING IN NEW YORK WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ALL
PARTIES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MEETING
IN UN FORUM WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME SENSITIVI-
TIES IN ARAB WORLD AGGRAVATED BY CAIRO CONFERENCE. ANY
ARAB PARTICIPANTS WHO REFUSED TO ATTEND WOULD BE PUBLICLY
EMBARRASSED. IN ADDITION UN MEETING WOULD SPARE USG
FROM HAVING OTHERS QUESTION ITS MOTIVATION AND THIS
AFFAIR. I COMMENTED THAT I DID NOT KNOW IF ANY FURTHER
PREPARATORY MEETINGS WOULD BE NECESSARY AFTER THE
CONCLUSION OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE AND THE BEGIN-SADAT
DISCUSSIONS, BUT THAT I WOULD REPORT GOK'S VIEWS TO MY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 KUWAIT 07196 01 OF 02 241552Z

GOVERNMENT.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINED KUWAIT'S REACTION TO SADAT'S
INITIATIVES BY STATING THAT, WHILE IT AND THE
OTHER ARAB NATIONS SHARED THE SAME STRETEGIC AIM AS
EGYPT, THEY DIFFERED AS TO THE METHOD BEING EMPLOYED TO
ACHIEVE THIS AIM BECAUSE OF ITS DIVISIVE EFFECT. ARAB
DISUNITY WAS NOT IN KUWAIT'S INTEREST NOR, ADDED SABAH
AL-AHMAD, WAS IT IN THE US INTEREST. HE REITERATED
HOPE THAT US WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE SADAT TO MAKE A
SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. ON THIS LAST POINT, I NOTED THAT
EVERYTING WE HAD HEARD FROM SADAT REITERATES HIS OBJECTIVE
IS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 07196 02 OF 02 241552Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010804 241603Z /40
P R 241323Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9781
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 7196

EXDIS

CAIRO FOR USEL

7. RETURNING TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S EARLIER POINT ABOUT PLO'S ROLE IN PEACE PROCESS, I EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE TOTALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE PLO. I REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS DEC. 15 PRESS CONFERENCE. SABAH AL-AHMAD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 07196 02 OF 02 241552Z

DID NOT DISPUTE THIS POINT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD AGAIN CRITICIZE PLO NEGATIVISM WHEN HE MET SHORTLY WITH ABU IYAD, (NUMBER 2 IN PLO) AS HE HAD WITH PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FAHUM AND PLO POLITICAL DIRECTOR QADDUMI IN RECENT MEETINGS WHEN HE TOLD THEM THE PLO SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED SADAT'S INVITATION TO ATTEND THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. SABAH AL-AHMAD ALSO REPORTED THAT GOK HAD TOLD SYRIAN PRES. ASAD THAT IT COULD NOT ACCEPT WHAT HAD BEEN DONE BY SYRIA AND THE OTHER ARAB NATIONS ATTENDING THE RECENT CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI.

8. THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY DECLARING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE US NOT ALLOW SADAT'S REGIME TO BE UNDERMINED BY THE OTHER SIDE (READ USSR). HE STATED THIS WAS A US RESPONSIBILITY. I ASSURED HIM THAT THE USG HAS EVERY INTENTION OF SUPPORTING SADAT IN HIS POLICY FOR PEACE, BUT THAT WE WOULD NEED THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS, INCLUDING KUWAIT IN THIS EFFORT. SABAH AL-AHMAD THEN EXPOSTULATED "WHAT DO YOU THINK WE HAVE BEEN DOING? IT IS IN OUR INTEREST ALSO

TO DO SO IN THE CONTEXT OF ARAB UNITY."

9. COMMENT: THE KUWAIT LEADERSHIP CLEARLY REMAINS
NEVEROUS OVER THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
PEACE PROCESS DICTATED BY SADAT'S MOVES. MAINTENANCE
OF ARAB UNITY IS A BASIC TENET OF KUWAIT FOREIGN
POLICY, SINCE THIS SMALL BUT WEALTHY STATE BECOMES
IMMEDIATELY VULNERABLE TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IN A
SITUATION WHICH FEATURES DIVISION. BEHIND THE GOK'S
POLICY POSITION, HOWEVER, IS EVIDENT AND SINCERE
CONCERN FOR PORGRESS TOWARD PEACE AND FOR THE CONTINUED
STABILITY OF THE SADAT REGIME IN EGYPT. THUS PRIVATE
SENTIMENT IN KUWAIT GENERALLY SUPPORTS SADAT'S INITIA-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 07196 02 OF 02 241552Z

TIVES FOR PEACE.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFINGS, MINISTER COUNSELORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT07196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770481-0359
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771219/aaaaaozt.tel
Line Count: 245
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 586f0efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 303444
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 132229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING OF KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER ON BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND ON CAIRO CONFERENCE
SECRET
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, PDEV, EG, IS, US, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr//SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/586f0efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009